



Almost Christmas: The kids at the Mission's Waldorf Kindergarten (see story on Page 16) hold up a deconstructed "Feliz Navidad". Photo by Jorge Zepeda

MIRROR ON THE PAST



Yesterday's team: Members of the Mission Baseball Team, a Pacific Coast League AAA farm club in April of 1934.

The rich history of the Mission -- San Francisco's oldest neighborhood -- will be brought to life in The Mission, the first part of a new KQED documentary series Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco. The Mission offers a first glance at the station's sequence of hour-long segments examining each of the City's distinct communities.

Narrated by award-winning author Isabel Allende, The Mission begins in the days the Ohlone Indians inhabited Dolores Creek.

The program recreates an Ohlone village to convey the peaceful existence of the Indians and the area's abundant wildlife before the 18th-century arrival of the Franciscan friars. Their ensuing attempt to Christianize the natives ultimately fails, and the area falls into the hands of Mexican ranchers, the "Californios."

Journeying through years of unceasing settlement and change, the program takes the viewer through the Gold Rush and

both economic and structural expansion. With early newsreels, photographs and eyewitness accounts, it traces the devastation wrought by the 1906 earthquake which reduced many homes to street tents. Finally, it documents the post-World War II wave of settlers from all parts of Latin America who join the community, partly by interviews with artists and activists.

Photographs of the City's first hometown team, the Seals (where Joe Dimaggio's baseball career began); an early 20th-century walk through some Mission streets, and other historic images also add to a program.

KQED, Channel 9, will air The Mission on December 15 at 7:30 PM and December 17 at 5:25 PM. KQED's monthly magazine, San Francisco Focus, will complement the station's on-screen production with its own about City neighborhoods. The Mission will be the focus of the December Issue.

FUTURE CHAMPIONS



The Mission Playground 6th-grade boys' Police Athletic League (PAL) basketball team finished in second place this year. Head Coach Tyrone Trono's squad had a record of 15 wins and 5 losses (including practice games).

The Bulldogs advanced to the championship game by defeating the I.C.E.

Lions 32-28 at Mission Recreation Center. In the championship game, the Bulldogs, led by the outstanding play of star guards Alfonso Reyes and Manuel Sandoval who scored 18 and 10 points respectively, were able to squeeze out a thrilling 35-32 win over the Eagles, coached by Joe Toboni.

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MISSION KOBAN NEEDS A NEW MISSION



The Mission Koban is a \$35,000 graffiti target. Photo by Eugene Kettner

by Steve Berninger

The Mayor's Mission Task Force (MMTF) is holding a contest to find a practical function for the Police Koban, the miniature station at the 16th and Mission BART station. The Koban was erected in 1989 amid local concern over rising criminal activity in the area. But less than five years after being hailed as a triumph of neighborhood collaboration, the Koban is waiting for a redefinition of its purpose.

Businesses, community organizations, and individuals donated over \$35,000 to cover the Koban's construction costs. There was to be an agreement that rotating shifts of police officers from the City, BART and UCSF would cover the station. However, the desired 24-hour staffing never came about, partly due to staff shortages.

It is unlikely that insufficient funding was the only obstacle. There were pragmatic problems with the Koban's design. According to one officer, although the kiosk permits an adequate viewpoint of

the corners across and adjacent, it is very difficult for an officer sitting inside to see what is happening directly behind him or her. And even from its early days when City officials were optimistic that the Koban's presence lowered the number of calls for police help in the area, skeptical citizens questioned whether merely transporting the crime a block or two away really addressed the problem.

However, the Koban Contest offers the community another opportunity to rally together behind a cause, in this case the fate of a semi-abandoned kiosk. The contest will serve as a forum for those who wish to suggest a community-oriented purpose, which could immediately be put into effect, for the Koban. All entries will be reviewed by the MMTF, and the results will be published in a forthcoming issue of the News. For more information, contact Ethel Siegel Newlin, 864-5205. Mail your entries to THE KOBAN CONTEST, c/o MMTF, 820 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

REDEVELOPMENT HEARING DECEMBER 15TH

At the request of Mayor Frank Jordan, the Mayor's Mission Task Force (MMTF) is soliciting recommendations and comments on the possibility of designating some areas of the Mission as "Redevelopment Survey Areas."

The Task Force will be holding a public hearing on this topic on Thursday, December 15, at 7 p.m., Cesar Chavez Elementary School, 825 Shotwell. Some of the questions that will be discussed at the meeting (and during the months to follow) are:

1) How would you use a financial investment from City government in your neighborhood to improve your quality of life?

2) What programs would you recommend: seismic retrofit loans, new housing, Victorian renovation/restoration, business parks, vocational training programs, job creation, better management of SRO hotels, new arts and cultural facilities, improved street lighting, undergrounding of utilities, installation of fiber-optic cable?

3) In which geographic areas of the Mission would a financial investment from the City be most useful?

4) What agreements would you want in place before the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) was asked to establish a boundary for a Survey Area?

5) How would you limit the Agency's powers, including eminent domain (which gives the City the power to acquire properties)?

Designation as a Survey Area could lead to the designation of a "Redevelopment Project Area." Project Area designation would give the SFRA broad powers to buy property, build new buildings and renovate old ones, and generally redevelop areas of blight. The Agency's primary powers do not take effect until a

Project Area has been approved; but dedicating a Survey Area does give the SFRA limited discretionary power to allocate and spend money. All SFRA budgets and programs are approved and authorized by the Board of Supervisors. Administration is done by SFRA Commissioners appointed by the mayor.

Redevelopment can be a powerful tool in rehabilitating a deteriorated neighborhood. But in order to mitigate the broad powers of the SFRA, the community, particularly residents and property owners, should establish ground rules -- before either a Survey Area or a Project Area is approved -- under which the SFRA would be allowed to proceed.

Seed money for new Redevelopment projects (as in the Mission) would have to come from the City's General Fund. As time passes, the SFRA would collect income from the incremental increases in the tax revenue from the Project Area. This "tax increment" money is theoretically supposed to be reinvested in the neighborhood from which it came, but there is no guarantee that this will occur. Historically, a portion of tax increment funds from Project Areas have remained in the City's General Fund and the Mission will have to lobby for any tax increment dollars it is due.

An agreement with the SFRA to establish a Project Area is a long-term proposition that should not be taken lightly. It is a huge commitment for a neighborhood or larger community to embark on this path with such a powerful partner. Regulations and political priorities have changed over the years, and recent Project Areas have been developed under the strict control of local community groups. For more information call 285-5950.

by Andy Solow for the Mayor's Mission Task Force

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The Mission District represented an island within an island as voter turnout, prompted by the anti-immigrant California Prop. 187, soared to presidential-election year levels.

Prop. 187, which swept to victory by a 59-41 percent statewide margin carried only 17 percent of the Mission vote and 29 percent Citywide. No San Francisco neighborhood supported the measure, not even the usually conservative precincts west of Twin Peaks.

On issue after issue the pattern repeated ... San Francisco's results standing in sharp contrast to those of the rest of the state and nation, and the Mission district vote surpassing even them. Sixty-three percent of us supported a downtown transit assessment district (Prop. O) that the City rejected 55-45 percent, and the Mission supported bonds to improve the odd couple of City Hall and sewers, which did not gain the necessary 2/3 majority.

A majority of the Mission voted NO on the Prop. A jail bond, which won 54 percent Citywide support, also falling short of the 2/3 requirement. A rejection of the popular anti-crime hysteria was also reflected by State Measure 184, the "three-strikes" law which California enacted; only 43 percent of San Franciscans and 31 percent of Mission voters supported the initiative which would ensure a lifetime supply of geriatric prisoners at the probable expense of public education.

(The only precinct to support 184, oddly enough, was the "Devil's Quadrangle" region of 16th and Mission, which contains a disproportionate share of the neighborhood's criminal element. Perhaps these felons are making plans for retirement -- a jail bed and three squares a day don't stack up too badly against the alternatives facing many seniors in the mean decades to come of spending slashes and social security busts!)

On issue after issue, the Mission led even other traditionally liberal neighborhoods like the Haight, Castro and Potrero Hill. Kathleen Brown and Dianne

Feinstein trounced their Republican opposition here and the single-payer healthcare plan, which lost statewide, won 55 percent in San Francisco and 74 percent in the Mission.

As evidence of the Mission's progressive tradition vis a vis other aging, gentrifying neighborhoods, Proposition I, extending rent control to small buildings, won 52 percent of the Citywide vote, 60 percent in the Castro, 64 percent in the

precincts, mostly those east of Valencia.

Unlike previous at-large elections, the keynote was uniformity, with the five winners sweeping every precinct. Labor candidate Sylvia Courtney, who received less than half Conroy's Citywide vote, actually finished sixth in the Mission, taking 15 precincts to 14 with 3 even, and Conroy fell behind Maria Martinez in the 24th Street area.

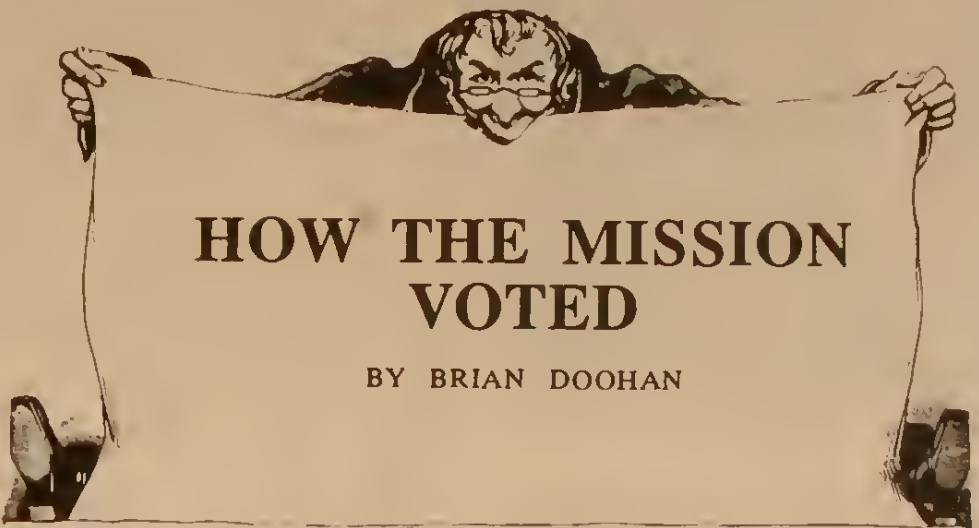
What will be the effects of this elec-

torious Pete Wilson and loser Michael Huffington, the Mission was a tar pit. In the Valencia Gardens projects, Kathleen Brown gathered 82 votes, Gloria LaRiva finished second with 11 and the Governor trailed with only 7 votes. However, he outperformed Huffington, who finished fourth with all of 4 votes, trailing Diane Feinstein, Barbara Blong and Elizabeth Barron.

The new California Green Party had mixed success. Its candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Daniel Moses, gathered several major endorsements and defeated his Republican opposition in every Mission precinct. However, Democrats were pointing fingers at the Greens for siphoning off enough votes to allow Republicans to defeat Tony Miller, who would have been the first elected openly gay Secretary of State ... the charge that Greens are advancing the interests of the Republican right is likely to arise again.

Unquestionably, however, the big loser was Mayor Jordan. Prop. N's companion measure M to ban sitting on the sidewalk was opposed by a bare majority of the voters (only 32 percent supported it in the Mission). Conroy's departure, with that of term-limited Supervisor Bill Maher, gives the Mayor only three reliable votes (his other appointee, Leal, frequently supports the liberal majority). It is quite likely that, on some issues, Jordan will not even be able to summon the strength to block an override of his veto, a situation some Board members have expressed an open inclination to take advantage of.

The election also keeps the mayoral dreams of Shelley and Migden alive. One or both is frequently mentioned as a challenger to Jordan, along with outgoing Board President Angela Alioto and old shades like HUD bureaucrat and former Mayor Art Agnos and City Attorney Louise Renne. Then again, the opening of State Assembly and Senate positions (Democrats Brown and Burton and Independent State Senator Kopp were all easy winners) augur a year of dealing and con-



Haight and 69 percent here: We also led in supporting stronger code enforcement (Prop. G) and a study that could result in a district election plan (Prop. L).

For Supervisor, school board member and stand-up comic Tom Ammiano edged out Susan Leal, with incumbents Carol Migden and Kevin Shelley trailing and Mabel Teng dislodging incumbent Jordan appointee Annemarie Conroy for the fifth position. These same five were elected or re-elected, with the order being Shelley, Migden, Leal, Ammiano and Teng.

The Mission joined Bernal Heights and the Western Addition in supporting the outspokenly progressive Ammiano over Migden (a winner in the Haight and Castro), Shelley (a leader in the southern and western precincts) and Leal, the other Jordan appointee who won in Noe Valley and captured several Mission

tion?

On the state and national level: disastrous. Republicans and conservative Democrats in Congress intend to enact regressive legislation such as a flat income tax rate that would exact an equal toll from millionaires like Huffington or Feinstein and their minimum-wage nannies. At the state level, forces of darkness and doom are gathering to roll back local rent-control and civil-rights ordinances. And California's 187 and San Francisco's Prop. N (bringing back the discredited Hotline Hotel scheme of warehousing the homeless) ensure a lively, volatile political stage for 1995, on which the former will unfold as tragedy, with the latter serving for farce. Locally, the reverse is true. The paradox of Prop. 187 is that it drew civil libertarians who might not otherwise have voted to the polls, especially in the Mission. For Republicans, including vic-

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PROPOSITION 187: RESISTANCE GROWS

EDUCATORS, HEALTH WORKERS JUST SAY NO, BUT FEAR SPREADS

by Stett Holbrook

In San Francisco, where 70 percent of voters rejected the law, Proposition 187 is temporarily a dead-letter item. Only hours after it passed, the law that would deny medical, educational and social services to undocumented immigrants was hobbled by scores of lawsuits that challenged its constitutionality. Additionally, its vaguely written legislation, the absence of funds for its implementation, and the bureaucratic morass it engenders have thus far caused Proposition 187 to go unobserved and unenforced. Even more powerful than the scores of legal challenges, however, is the resistance on the part of the law's would-be enforcers.

Health department officials, school administrators and social workers -- those who are supposed to enforce the law by reporting individuals believed to be undocumented immigrants -- have refused to abide by it. They believe the law is immoral, costly and ultimately dangerous to the City of San Francisco.

The San Francisco Health Commission passed a resolution on November 15 stating that "until further notice regarding the disposition of the court proceedings or further administrative orders, the San Francisco Department of Public Health shall continue to follow normal operating procedures regarding the provision of medical and community public health."

The Department of Public Health found that Proposition 187 will cause serious and life-threatening harm to disease management and control, including the transmission of Tuberculosis and HIV.

"The traditional public health functions of disease control, surveillance, communicable diseases, [management of] STDs, tuberculosis, and HIV really stand to lose 20 years of progress if we were to

implement the provisions of 187," warned Sandra Hernandez, Director of Health for the Department of Public Health. "The real message that we'd like to get out

Hospital's pediatric center, echoed Hernandez' view. Proposition 187 is "absolutely, totally ignorant of the health issues," Coulter said. "By denying health

public health emergency and continue to provide lifesaving services such as HIV testing and diagnosis and treatment for HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, STDs and other communicable diseases. Under the provisions of Proposition 187, all these services would be denied to those without the proper identification.

THE SCHOOLS STAND STRONG

In a strong, united voice, the Department of Social Services and the San Francisco Unified School District joined the Department of Public Health's resolution not to abide by the provisions of Proposition 187.

"As far as Proposition 187 goes, it's clear the executive branch got it wrong, and it's clear the legislative process got it wrong," explained Superintendent of Schools Bill Rojas. "So we're kind of dependent on the judicial process getting it right."

"Education is a fundamental right that all children are entitled to regardless of the alien status of their parents. At the present time, we have been very clear to each and every one of our administrators, parents and the community in general that Proposition 187 is not in effect in public school education."

Rojas already has the support of the state Superior Court, which issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) that blocks the implementation of the educational restrictions of the proposition. In the TRO, issuing Judge Stuart Pollack cited a 1982 Supreme Court decision that found children who are illegal immigrants have a constitutional right to a free public education and could not be penalized for the illegal activities of their parents. The Supreme Court ruled that denying education is unconstitutional because of the "lasting impact of its deprivation on the life of a child."

Aside from constitutional issues, Superintendent Rojas rejected Proposition 187 for practical reasons as well.

The Federal Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits schools

that receive federal funds from disclosing information in student records without parental consent. The cash-strapped San Francisco Unified School District would be in danger of losing \$35 million in federal funding if it complied with Proposition 187 and reported students' residence status to the Immigration and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



to all citizens and residents of San Francisco is that they should not in any circumstances delay seeking medical care."

Dr. Kevin Coulter, an associate professor of medicine at UCSF and assistant director of San Francisco General

benefits to the undocumented you put all others at risk."

Since 187 passed, Dr. Coulter reported that patient levels are down. Whether this is a result of 187 he is unsure, but several patients have expressed anxiety about the new law. To quell some of their fears, he hung a sign in the pediatrics center: "All Children Are Welcome." Coulter's attitude toward Proposition 187 was clear: "We are not going to deny health care based on immigration status."

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed that Proposition 187 poses a health threat to San Francisco and urged that the vital services provided by the Department of Public Health be exempted from Proposition 187 if and when it is operationalized. If not, they will request that the Mayor declare a

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PROPOSITION 187 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Naturalization Service as spelled in the new law. Statewide, the implementation of Proposition 187 could cause California to lose \$2.6 billion in federal funding.

"It is morally correct; it is operationally correct; and at this point in time, given the sums of dollars that could be lost, it is also fiscally correct to take the necessary actions to invalidate an illegal proposition," concluded Rojas.

Rojas reported no significant drop in attendance since the proposition's passage, but said that enrollment is down considerably. School administrators expected 30 to 35 fewer students this fall, but enrollment was down by several hundred. "This [187] has been a steady beat by the governor for well over a year," Rojas said, "and it has had some impact in scaring persons away from registering."

At Horace Mann middle school, a competitive public school in the Mission District, attendance is normal. According to Principal Richard Murphy, this is partly due to his efforts to explain to both students and parents that Proposition 187 is not in effect and no one will be singled out.

Murphy called the new law "repugnant." "We are not going to become immigration officers," he explained. "This is not what we got into education for."

A CLIMATE OF FEAR

While most of the attention surrounding Proposition 187 has focused on its impact in schools and medical care, eliminating various social services to immigrants and their children could have a grave effect as well. Many of the services provided by the Department of Social Services, such as Aid For Dependent Children (AFDC), food stamps, and general assistance support, are unavailable to undocumented immigrants. Available are such services as prenatal care, pediatric care and emergency medical treatment.

"An abused child is an abused child," said Brian Cahill, General Manager of the Department of Social Services, "and there is no way I am going to tell my staff not to

respond to allegations of abuse and neglect." In spite of his commitment to providing service, Cahill pointed to a disturbing trend.

"If you look at what has happened just since the election, there has been a noticeable drop-off in Spanish-speaking clients coming in to apply for MediCal. And that is clear to me that what we are talking about is: People who have documentation are frightened to come in. ... The fear factor is alive and well." The day after Proposition 187 passed, the intersection of Twenty Fourth and Mission -- the heart of Latino San Francisco -- bristled with more than 50 police dressed in full riot gear. Although protests and demonstrations occurred without incident, for area Latinos, many of whom come from military-dominated states like El Salvador and Guatemala, the display of force added to the climate of fear.

The anxiety about being singled out as an illegal immigrant and confusion surrounding the new law have already resulted in two casualties.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that a woman who delayed seeking treatment for fear of being deported back to China died last month from brain hemorrhaging. The woman had leukemia but only went to the hospital when bruises covered her body and she had gone blind in one eye. Although she was an illegal immigrant, she was legally entitled to seek emergency medical treatment. Similarly, a 12-year-old boy died of leukemia-related problems last month in Los Angeles after his parents delayed seeking medical help because of fears about their immigrant status.

"We feel afraid," said a Salvadoran immigrant. "We are going to lose many things." The immigrant, who works as a dishwasher in an upscale local restaurant, doubted the effectiveness of the law. "Pete Wilson says we are the guilty ones for how the state is. He says we make the trouble. We work every day. We work hard. If we get sick, we have to pay. Even if the law is approved, people will come anyway. We only think about getting a better job, a better life."

DANGEROUS THEATER



Theater of resistance principals: (l to r) Sarah Albertson, Carlos Baron and Jai Scott

by L. Newman Gonzalez

These are dangerous times, considering the passage of Prop. 187, and the idea that anyone could consider "mark of the beast" recipient Pete Wilson a contender for the 1996 presidential race. Well, dangerous times often create dangerous theater, and that's what you can see this month at the Mission Cultural Center.

"Crossing," a highly personalized theater/dance production, will be presented December 9 through 11 at Teatro Mission by students in the Multicultural Theater Workshop at San Francisco State University. Known off-campus as Rainbow Theater, this group will also sponsor "Homelands -- Stories of Migration" on December 17 and 18.

Director Carlos Barón calls "Crossing" a compilation of the performers' real-life experiences and existing material by others, including Russian writer Yegveny Yevtushenko and Puerto Rican poet Victor Hernandez Cruz. The production explores the real and imagined borders that divide and define us as members of a culturally diverse society.

"Our aim is to show that in spite of borders, people continue meeting, influencing and growing with each other," says Barón, adding, "Only when this country accepts itself for what it is, a multicultural entity, will the borders come down. Until that time we will remain in a state of prehistory."

The anchoring piece of the show, titled "I Am Erica," (as in "I Am America") is the ironic and tragic account of one student's circumstance of birth. Deported as "four pounds of illegal flesh" after a doctor drops a dime on her undocumented mother, Erica returns from El Salvador 18 years later under the amnesty program. Bicultural, bilingual and ultimately confused, she eventually joins the California National Guard for college scholarship money -- only to receive a dishonorable discharge after refusing to muster at the U.S./Mexican border for INS duty.

"Homeland -- Stories of Migration," directed by Sarah Albertson, Jai Scott and choreographer Christina Tejada, was originally a Cabrillo Community College production. "An explosion of positive defiance in response to the latest election results," this story-theater/dance celebration of diversity examines the dynamics of migration, including Scott's powerful "Identity Crises."

"Crossing" shows at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 9 and 10, and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 11. "Homeland -- Stories of Migration," a double bill with "Nobody Knows -- A James Baldwin Retrospective" shows Dec. 17 at 8:30 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. The Mission Cultural Center is at 2868 Mission, at 25th Street. For more information call 338-1941.

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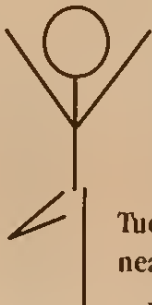


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IN RE: 187

VIVA 187!

Editor:

I'm writing about that stupid piece of crap written by that ignorant jerk-off Victor Miller in the October issue of your paper. As usual, that 187 article was full of the usual borseshit that comes out of the diseased brains of the socialist liberals.

Get this straight idiots: Immigrants are NOT the same thing as illegal aliens. The illegal bastards are not supposed to be in this country, so they are not entitled to any of our services or education either. If they want an education, they can go back to their own countries to get it. And the kids are not going to be on the streets or going into gangs because they are going to get their illegal asses shipped back to where they came from.

And as for the part of losing federal funds -- listen up, schmucks. The bastard federal government isn't supposed to be supplying schools with any kind of money, because the constitution does not give them any authority to be sticking their hands in education. That is a local matter. When money is given to any institution, that institution ends up being controlled. So the federal government can take their funds and shove them up their socialistic asses.

You people who are against this proposition are nothing but cheap two-bit TRAITORS to your state and to your country. And that is the truth whether you like it or not. You scum-sucking bottom feeders are not fit to call yourselves Americans.

This proposition is being lied about so much because this will mean the death knell of the illegal alien problem in a lot of ways. YOU filthy traitors are the real racists, the real bigots, the real bate-mongers. You really should go live somewhere else, because you don't care enough about America to correct problems affecting your fellow countrymen. You're all a pack of degenerate New-World-Order Communazi thugs, and I spit on the whole perverted lot of you.

So, whether you like prop 187 or don't like it, learn to love it, because it's the best thing going. ALL ILLEGALS OUT. YES ON 187. PRESIDENT SALINAS SUCKS. Have a good day.

TRUE AMERICAN

PS: I know what the radical scum have planned when 187 passes. So don't try it. The authorities have been alerted.

MUERA 187!

Editor:

We, the members of Fuerza Joven, Accion Latina's youth project, are opposed to Proposition 187 because it promotes racism and hatred.

We are young people from different ethnic backgrounds and cultures who are concerned by the recently passed Proposition 187 because it affects us, our families and our friends.

We are of a group who is unable to vote and has limited ways of expressing political opinions due to age. Unless we speak collectively, our voices and opinions are seldom heard. We have chosen alternate ways to express our opposition to the passing of Prop. 187 such as marching, rallies and school walkouts.

We are proud to live in an ethnically diverse city and have grown up accepting and appreciating the different cultures that are part of our lives every day. Because we appreciate these differences, we want to encourage people to come to the United States and feel welcome. After all, America is supposed to be the land of diversity and opportunity.

Proposition 187 encourages racism. If we speak with a slight accent or have slanted eyes, are we suspected of being illegal? If Prop. 187 is approved and en-

forced, how are we, the dark-skinned members of our society, to prove our citizenship? Are we to be branded like cows in order to prove our legality, to allow us to go to the doctor for a simple check-up or get a cavity filled?

Proposition 187 is wrong!! It is inhumane, morally unjust and cold. Denying health care to people who need it is disgusting, unethical.

Proposition 187 is not a real solution to California's illegal immigration problem. We're not really sure what the solution is, but we know what is not.

Fuerza Joven Staff

Editor:

Immigrant Rights Movement/ Movimiento por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (IRM/MDI) is a coalition of over forty community, labor and political organizations in San Francisco gearing up for a demonstration against implementation of Proposition 187 which will be held Saturday, December 10th starting at 11 AM on 24th Street and Mission, followed by a rally at City Hall. The organizers have emphasized that this is the first of many actions planned to stop implementation, and eventually obtain the repeal of Prop. 187. For information call 826-1614.

Carlos Petroni, IRM/MDI

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MEXICO'S YEAR ON THE BRINK

MISSION DISTRICT WRITER GIVES FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF THE CHIAPAS REBELLION

by Victor Miller

Poet, journalist and activist John Ross has spent two decades covering the Mexican political scene, for a variety of national and international publications. Over the last year, Ross has been Greyhounding between his Mission District home and Southern Mexico as he put together *Rebellion from the Roots: Indian Uprising in Chiapas*, the first U.S. book in print to chronicle the stormy course of the Zapatista guerilla phenomenon and its dramatic impact on the Mexican nation. Ross' book is broad in scope, covering every event leading up to and reverberating from the New Year's Day 1994 occupation by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) of four townships in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state.

The people of Chiapas are on the lowest rung of the Mexican economic ladder, but Chiapas is by no means resource-poor. It supplies 45 percent of all Mexican hydroelectric power and 28 percent of the nation's meat, as well as producing 92,000 barrels of oil and 516 million cubic feet of natural gas each day.

Of the state's 3.2 million inhabitants, 1.2 million are members of one of ten Mayan cultures, which are separated linguistically from the state's Spanish-speaking majority and, for the most part, isolated geographically in the two poorest regions of Chiapas: Lacandon and Los Altos. Sixty-three percent of the indigenous households do not have electricity, 90 percent are without potable water and meat is a rare dietary item. Chiapas has the highest illiteracy rate (30 percent) and the highest number of deaths per 100,000 in Mexico, as well as an infant mortality rate twice the national average and salaries three times lower than the national average. The utilization of abundant timber in the Chiapan rain-

forest area is, as with all other natural resources, a point of contention between the increasingly impoverished indigenous population, who make up the ranks of the EZLN, and the state's oligarchy.

Ross details this struggle for control of

the provisos of the agreement would have allowed U.S. agribusinesses to flood the Mexican market with cheap surplus corn. In 1992, the Mexican government had altered Article 27, a cornerstone land redistribution section of the Mexican

4,000 troops into the state. On May 22, a firefight lasting for hours broke out between the army and the EZLN. The next day, the Army discovered a guerilla camp with a full-scale mock-up of the town of Ocosingo's municipal palace (which the EZLN occupied seven months later). Four days of increasingly intense military activity followed; and then suddenly the army departed, and the Mexican government adamantly denied anything out of the ordinary was afoot.

Ross agrees with the EZLN analysis that the reason for this extraordinary turn-about was fear that revelation of the guerilla army's existence would jeopardize U.S. Congressional approval of NAFTA, on which the administration of Mexican President Carlos Salinas had based its economic strategy and staked its reputation. Ross also documents the extensive intelligence network the U.S. and Mexico has in place in Chiapas and makes a good case that both governments were well aware of the EZLN as early as 1990.

THE TWELVE DAY WAR

If the Salinas government was willing to wait, the Zapatistas were not; and on January 1st, 1994, the day NAFTA went into effect and the beginning of Mexico's presidential election campaign, they came out of the jungle and made their presence known to the world by occupying four Chiapas towns, taking over public buildings and freeing prisoners from jails. The Mexican government went for a quick kill. For the next ten days the Mexican Army blundered brutally about the Chiapas countryside, raining down indiscriminate mayhem before the eyes of a growing legion of international journalists and nearly three dozen human rights organizations. Many demonstrations and a few bombings took place in various parts of the country. The government disinfor-



Photo by Matt Wuerker

the land in all of its various manifestations, from the depredations of conquistador Pedro Alvarado in 1522 to the suppression of land takeovers and murder of campesino leaders by the private army of "White Guards" and state security forces in the 1980s.

DETONATOR AND DEATH SENTENCE

What transformed a decades-long cycle of land seizures followed by bloody repressions into an armed revolution in 1994 were fundamental changes in Mexico's policy toward foreign investors and the advent of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. One of

Constitution, to make Mexico more appealing as a NAFTA partner and to non-Mexican investors in general. Zapatista spokesperson Subcommander Marcos called the revision of Article 27 the "detonating" factor in the Zapatista decision to go to war and NAFTA "a death sentence for the Indians... an international massacre."

Ironically, concern by both the U.S. and Mexican governments over passage of NAFTA by the U.S. Congress may have saved the EZLN from early destruction. In the spring of 1993, the killing of two Mexican soldiers in Chiapas incensed the region's military commander, who sent

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mation machine went into full gear trying to discredit the EZLN as outside agitators and "professionals of violence." Ross provides some powerful accounts of government terror tactics and atrocities during this brief military phase.

On January 10, the Mexican stock market went into a steep decline, suffering the fifth-worst loss in its history. On the same day, Salinas fired his Secretary of the Interior, a former Chiapas governor who had denied the EZLN's existence. On January 12th, Salinas declared a ceasefire and called for negotiations.

Protests and land takeovers by unarmed Indians swept the state of Chiapas throughout January and February. On February 27, negotiations between the EZLN and the government began in the Chiapas town of San Cristobal de las Casas. Participants included Chiapas Bishop Samuel Ruiz, a liberationist theologian who Ross describes as "Mexico's officially designated 'Red Bishop'," and Manuel Camacho Solis, the government's representative. Camacho, a former mayor of Mexico City, had recently been frustrated in his attempts to become Salinas' successor. For most of his stay in Chiapas, he hints to the press at launching an independent presidential campaign, further complicating the political picture.

On March 2nd, the dialogue was over, the results unimpressive. The Zapatista demand that Mexico's ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has been the sole wielder of national power for 65 years, give up its iron control of the electoral process was side-stepped and the demand for restoration of Article 27 left to arcane legal tinkering. Other demands for government and agricultural reforms were referred to the bureaucrat's court of first and last resort, a government-appointed commission. Ross brings his extensive knowledge of Mexican politics to bear in a lengthy analysis of what was asked for and what was offered. He observes, "The political demands embedded in the Zapatista petition did not ask for state power. Unlike previous Latin guerilla models, the Zapatistas never made pretensions to taking the same. Rather, political demands were either retributive or reformist."

THE ASSASSINATION

On March 23rd, while the Zapatistas were still soliciting a definitive response to the government's proposals from the indigenous communities in the Lacandon jungle, the PRI candidate for president, Luis Donaldo Colosio, was assassinated during a campaign rally in Tijuana. (The following month the police chief of Tijuana, pursuing his own independent investigation of the assassination, was ambushed and killed by parties unknown.) Ross examines a number of the major theories on the Colosio assassination but does not draw any firm conclusions as to perpetrators.

He gives strong weight to the theory that Colosio's assassination is the part of a larger power struggle within the ruling party, now at war with both the Zapatistas and itself.

On June 12th, the EZLN officially rejected the government's proposals; but the national attention had by now been refocused on the presidential campaign and away from the plight of the Chiapas Indians. To recapture the political initiative, the Zapatistas organized a national convention of the left within the rebel zone demarcated by the ceasefire agreement. Two weeks before the presidential elections in August, this Woodstock-with-a-ski-mask event attracted 6,000 participants from all over Mexico and beyond. No essentially new demands were articulated, but the Zapatista call for participation in the upcoming elections did prevail over ultra-leftists' push for an electoral boycott. Ross describes events at the convention in an exuberant gonzo style and seems to have found it more entertaining than significant.

As has been the case since 1929, the PRI candidate for president Ernesto Zedillo, who had replaced Colosio, won the election; the left of center candidate, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, was a distant

third. Ross argues that the number of votes gained by PRI fraud was less than the margin of victory; fraud or no fraud, Zedillo would have won. He also contends that the Zapatista rebellion and the assassination combined to create a climate of fear and uncertainty that drove voters to the corrupt but comfortingly familiar PRI banner. The election seems a natural place to end a historical account but a damned poor one for resolution of the many unraveling plot threads that began New Year's Day 1994.

A PERILOUS FUTURE

The ELZN still holds a small but very high-profile piece of the Mexican Republic; its demands for social and economic justice are unanswered. Outgoing President Salinas is angling to be head of the World Trade Organization and is naturally reluctant to compromise his chances by involving himself in a potentially violent confrontation with the EZLN.

Incoming President Zedillo, who took office December 1, must deal not only with the Zapatista challenge from the left but with a crisis on the right. On September 28, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the Secretary General of PRI, was assassinated; his brother, a Deputy Attorney General, has since resigned, charging a high-level government cover-up. The murder is regarded by many observers as a message from the ultra-right wing of the PRI apparatus, telling party reformers to back off.

The image of a stable and democratic Mexico so carefully crafted by Salinas and others for consumption abroad has been shattered by the Zapatista uprising. More importantly, the rebellion has struck a responsive chord at home, where Mexico's aging one-party dictatorship, like those of Russia or Eastern Europe which disappeared seemingly overnight, is showing itself to be brittle and perhaps easily shattered. The consequences for the United States of a major upheaval of the Mexican social order are awesome, especially in terms of the potential for massive waves of unsanctioned immigration across the ever-porous, two-thousand mile border. This would occur at a time when opportunistic post-187 xenophobia is at its height in the U.S.

Rebellion at the Roots is an important book, the first to record the opening events in what appears to be an epic transformation of Mexico and the onset of the most tumultuous era of U.S.- Mexican relations since General Pershing pursued Pancho Villa south of the Rio Grande. For the book's timeliness and the counter-punch it provides to governmental and mainstream media disinformation, its author and publishers can be forgiven a few structural faults. The absence of footnotes is compensated for by the awkward addition of asides in the text. There is no glossary to explain the ungodly number of acronyms organizations; and, most irritatingly, there is no map of Chiapas. These things tend to make the book somewhat user-unfriendly but are minor inconveniences redeemed by a lively style that, like all well-written histories, strikes a good balance between the archival and the anecdotal.

Rebellion at the Roots is available at *Modern Times Books*.



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NEW COP SHOP THIS MONTH



Samba in the station house.

The community open house for the new Mission police station was a swell little shindig with free hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos, music and guided tours for the public. I missed the bagpipes but got an eyeful of Carnaval dancers shimmying to a samba drummer ensemble. For a description of the differences between the old Mission Station, at 23rd and Valencia Streets, and this new one at 17th and Valencia, I asked Mission Station Captain Joachim Santos, who said I should look at the old station first. Okay, I was game.

I was given a guided tour by officer Joanne Welsh. It was raining, and there were buckets strategically placed in different areas of the old station to catch the water leaking from the ceiling. Captain Santos' secretary once joked, "When it rains (in here), we call it the Tonga Room." Layers of peeled paint were visible on several walls. These were the more scenic parts of the place.

There was a holding area with four cells for men in the back. There were no facilities for women or juveniles, who instead were accommodated in the sergeant's office or on a bench (with plastic handcuffs attached) in the assembly room. Mission officer Robert Ludlow said that before they got the bench, "We used to have to handcuff them to a gumball machine."

Prisoners are routinely strip-searched for contraband; since there were no facilities for women prisoners, officers had to improvise. Female officers did not like to strip search women prisoners in the one stall of the women's restroom because, well, a lot of this clientele is kind of yucky. We're talking junkies with open

sores, prostitutes with lice and scabies, drunks and so on.

So, whenever a female prisoner had to be searched, the female officer would knock on the door of the men's restroom, to make sure it was empty. The first stall had a piece of paper (with a sign which read #1) taped to the door. This was the women prisoners' restroom and strip-search facility.

The gym in the basement of the old station had just been sprayed for roaches. It currently doubles as a break room, where officers who've been on some special duty for 12 or 14 hours can lie down and rest. Nobody would mistake it for the Pacific Heights Health Club.

Besides the dilapidation of the place, there's a real problem with lack of space. Officers trying to write police reports have no privacy from ringing phones and other noise. The radiator room doubles as a kitchen and dining room. Police cars double-park all over the block because the station doesn't have enough parking to accommodate them.

The new station will be formally dedicated on December 14th; "It's rumored we will be in there by then," said one of the officers. The offices of the juvenile bureau will be located there, but this will not be a youth detention center. (There will be one cell designated for juveniles.)

No more benches with handcuffs in the assembly room. Separate areas for women prisoners. No more knock-knock on the door of the men's john. No more double-parked cars on the streets. No leaky ceilings or peeling paint or strange odors.

It almost makes you want to run right out and get arrested.

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Merry Christmas, Ho Ho Ho! Bleagh!

The hype is that we are all cozy, warm, well fed and basking in Christmas cheer. The reality is that many of us are alone, depressed, sad and desperate. Suicides go up during the holiday season. So do traffic accidents, spouse and child abuse, alcohol and drug relapses, and other attempts at escape from the bottomless pit of terminal bummed-outness.

The following list of phone numbers may help you or someone you know get through the holidays alive, in one piece and with your sanity relatively intact.

Suicide Prevention Crisis Line (24 hours): 781-0500.

AIDS-HIV Nightline (5 p.m. to 5 a.m.; they will try to have 24-hour coverage between Christmas and New Year's): 434-AIDS.

Child Abuse Crisis Line (Monday through Thursday 5 to 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.): 989-5444.

Youth Line (same hours as the Child Abuse Crisis Line): 781-1600.

Drug Line (24 hours): 362-3400.

Relapse Line (24 hours): 834-1144.

Alcoholics Anonymous (24 hours): 621-1326.

Narcotics Anonymous (24 hours) 621-8600.

AIDS Line (TTY-for the deaf, 24 hours): 781-2228.

Crisis Line (TTY-for the deaf, 24 hours): 781-2224.

Battered Women's Crisis Line (24 hours): 864-4722 or 864-4555.

And have a relatively noncatastrophic Christmas and a nonlethal New Year.

RENT ROLLBACK!

Proposition I, approved by San Francisco voters on November 8th (see page 4), will extend rent control protections to tenants who were previously not covered. Under the existing Rent Control Ordinance, owner-occupied buildings of four units or less were exempt from the protections of rent control. Tenants living in these buildings could be evicted without any reason and their rents could be increased by any amount.

With Proposition I, small buildings will now be protected even if the landlord lives on the premises. The passage of this initiative will have a large impact on the Mission District, where 50 percent of the housing stock consists of buildings of four units or less.

Proposition I is expected to take effect in mid-December, when the Board of Su-

pervisors will certify the results of the election. It establishes the base rent of these newly protected units to the level at which it was on May 1, 1994. This means that, once this change takes effect, rents in these apartments must be "rolled back" to what they were on May 1, 1994. Any rent increase between May and December is nullified, and the landlord must return any money paid in excess by December 15, 1994.

If the landlord fails to return the money, the tenant may either deduct that amount from future rents or take the landlord to the Rent Board or Small Claims Court.

For any questions regarding these changes, contact St. Peter's Housing Committee at (415) 282-8877 or the San Francisco Tenants' Union at 282-5525.

WIN BABY POINTS!!

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has started a new program to encourage pregnant women to keep prenatal care appointments. The program, called "Baby Points," awards up to \$50 in gift certificates to low-income women who complete eight prenatal appointments.

Here's how it works. To enroll, call 1-800-300-9950, Monday through Friday. If you are on General Assistance (GA), Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC), the WIC program or MediCal, you probably qualify. If you're not certain you qualify, call anyway, since you might.

If you meet the program's eligibility requirements, they'll send you a packet with eight postcards. Every time you keep a prenatal appointment, you get your health care provider to sign one of the cards. You put the card in a mailbox. The postage is already on the card.

After you send in four cards, you'll

receive a \$20 gift certificate for Toys 'R' Us. After eight visits and eight cards, you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for Toys 'R' Us and a package with baby lotion, talcum powder and other baby needs.

Cantonese and Mandarin speakers should call in the mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Spanish speakers should call in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. English speakers should call from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, or from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tagalog-speaking staff is "available."

S.F. General Perinatal Services Director Virginia Smyly said the staff will try to accommodate all callers, whether or not they call in their appropriate language slots. If you are "undocumented," you should enroll anyway, since Proposition 187 will not go into effect until the courts rule on whether or not it's legal. Besides, good prenatal care gives you a much better shot at giving birth to a healthy U.S. citizen.

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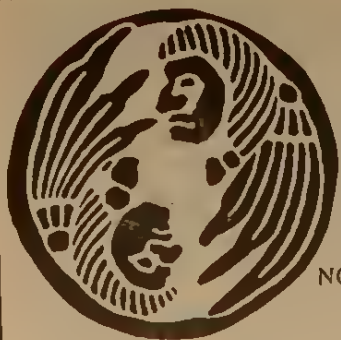
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AMERICA 502

NOTES ON THE 502ND YEAR OF THE OCCUPATION

BY ROSE ARRIETA

THE WASHING OF TEARS

Hundreds of years ago in, British Columbia, the Mowachaht were gifted whalers, one of the great fishing societies of the north Pacific. It is said that their enormous power and skill were harnessed through rituals and prayers to their sacred shrine. "Our people had to really offer themselves through prayer to the Creator when they wanted something," says Chief Jerry Jack of the Mowachaht nation.

In the film *The Washing of Tears*, the history of this shrine and the decline and resurrection of the Mowachaht nation are explored. The film, which was shown as part of the American Indian Film Festival and won an award for best documentary, maps out the relocation of the Mowachaht from Friendly Cove -- a spot on the outer coast of Vancouver Island that they call Yuquot, where they lived for thousands of years -- to Gold River, where they now share 39 acres with a pulp mill. Trade, disease and greed wiped out many of the Mowachaht; by the early 20th century, only 52 were left.

Beginning in the late '70s, there was a revival of the Mowachaht culture, traditions and pride. With this renewal came a growing awareness of how precious their shrine was and that it should come home. In the film, Chief Jack voices his hope for

journey to the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where their shrine is being held. The shrine was at the heart of the Mowachaht culture, but as has happened to many Indian nations and their shrines, burial remains, and ceremonial items, it was hought under questionable circumstances and taken to the Museum of Natural History in New York in 1903, where it remained in a vault for many years. Today, this shrine, known as the "Nootka Whalers' Washing House," or "Whalers' Shrine," is one of the greatest treasures ever carried out of Canada.

This was the first time that Chief Jack or the other Mowachaht had seen it. "It was really something to walk into that room to see what our ancestors used hundreds of years ago to prepare themselves for the whale hunt," says Chief Jack. "It was quite an impact on my life to see the things that our ancestors used. There was so much power to see that I can't explain how I felt when I walked in. There was fear in me. I wasn't ready or prepared. I couldn't touch anything in that room.

"The whale is so powerful and the Mowachaht were able to get that strength from the shrine to capture the whale and the only thing they needed to catch it with was the harpoon."

As a youngster, Chief Jack remembers sitting with his grandfather, Captain Jack, and hearing stories of his people. "That was one good thing about getting expelled from school," he says, laughing. In addition, Chief Jack has collected oral histories from the elders in their own language.

In 1975, when the First Nations of British Columbia united to reject all government funding, Chief Jerry Jack began the fight for his people. "We were tired of the government controlling our lives. That's when we discovered that our singing, dancing and our spirituality was so powerful. We started bringing our songs and dances back into our nation. And that has been a big help to our youth. It has helped their self-esteem, regaining cultural pride and awareness of who they

are -- and what they are, the Mowachaht."

Right now, Chief Jack and several other members of the nation are in the process of helping the people move away from that 39-acre plot of polluted wasteland. "Our goal," says Chief Jack, "is to try to get everybody home. That's about 600. They are spread around all over. But they want to come home."

He adds that with the reclaiming of the shrine; the move back to territorial lands and the documentary, *The Washing of Tears*, "It's getting the message across that we are here and we've survived. They took our land and sea resources and put us on welfare, took away our shrine, outlawed our spiritual traditions and our culture; but we are still here. And we've survived."

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the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

The Mission's block clubs fight an intermittent guerilla war with non-profit developers and service providers. Non-profits, with their paid staff and City Hall contacts, often seem like invaders, bringing with them hordes of low-income renters, troubled youth or damaged adults, imposing new problems and dangers on the neighborhood. Service providers and neighborhood organizations don't mix. Or do they? One Mission non-profit has taken the lead in organizing block clubs, and so far the combination seems to be working very well.

Mission Education Project, Inc. (MEPI) has been running tutoring and parent involvement programs in 15 San Francisco schools for years. In 1993, MEPI got a \$15,000 grant from the City's Neighborhood Empowerment Program to organize block clubs around three local elementary schools. {Organizing neighbor groups around schools or parks is always a good way to start. It's a place to meet, a collective resource for the community, something to improve and protect.}

"The block club idea was brought to our attention by the parents," says MEPI Executive Director Rita Alviar, who has lived on Bryant for 35 years. "They told us about their kids' walking through needles and garbage on the way to school. They told us about not feeling safe. We felt we could do something to make a clean and safe place for the kids."

All the clubs are up and running, and a fourth has been created at the Sunshine

The clubs are holding clean-ups and holiday parties, forming neighborhood patrols, bringing police and city officials into regular contact with neighbors. Meetings are held in the schools. One goal is closer cooperation between schools and residents.

"We're trying to get schools and neighbors working as a team," says Alviar. "We hope to be able to keep the schools open later with volunteer help from the residents. All residents should volunteer one or two hours a week to help the schools provide programs the residents and students need."

Bryant School Principal Diana Otero agrees that, "The block and the school can help each other by collaborating. The school is part of the neighborhood and vice versa."

At Bryant, block club volunteers help out with some after school programs. They hope to install basketball hoops with volunteer supervision of the courts, and MEPI will be running an after-school computer program. The Chavez block club won stop signs for intersections near the school, and the Moscone group is taking action against drug dealing in their area.

MEPI's block clubs are totally bilingual, with most members primarily Spanish-speaking, people many neighborhood groups haven't involved well. [Consistent translation is crucial " even if people say they understand, they may be unwilling to speak publicly in their second language, so without translation, you miss their ideas.]

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The the Violence Prevention Initiative, led by Real Alternatives Project and the Central American Refugee Center and funded by the California Wellness Foundation, shares the same goals and turf with the block clubs, but they live in almost completely separate worlds. There were few parents at VPI's 3rd Community Summit, held October 29 at Horace Mann, and virtually no representatives of resident groups. About 50 youth and an equal number of service providers and political activists discussed what they could do in the coming year to reduce youth violence.

Several interesting ideas came out of the working groups. The Youth Group suggested a Committee that would meet regularly with the police and have some say in disciplinary action, hiring and firing. The Firearms Group felt that boxing, karate, and weightlifting programs could give some kids a feeling of power without their having to pack

weapons. According to people at the meeting, many rec centers have cut such programs to avoid attracting problem youth.

Dave Aldape of Alianza and Rich Sorro of Mission Hiring Hall laid out plans to increase youth employment. A new parking garage at SF General, the complete rebuilding of Bernal Dwellings, and two new schools on Harrison Street will bring millions in construction money into the neighborhood in the next six months. Aldape said his group would ensure that young Mission residents got their fair share of jobs.

VPI has begun to do neighborhood things. On November 19, they sponsored a clean-up and paintover of Garfield Park. A small army of youth and VPI staff, along with neighbors, really spiffed up Garfield, a major recreational area for Latino youth. Interestingly, a MEPI block club held a clean-up two blocks east of Garfield at the same time. Perhaps the residents, nonprofits and politicians are moving closer together after all.

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GANGSPEAK

TIME AFTER TIME IT HURTS MY SOUL....

Taking a cruise, I saw five police cars on 24th and Mission at midnight jacking people; and my friend went to the liquor store, which I call the devil's den because of what's in it, and as my friend was coming out he saw a homie getting harassed by a so-called peace officer; and these were the words of an officer trained at a police academy to be courteous and to help the community, the people that pay him to protect them: "Fuck your mother! fuck your brother! fuck your sister! ... And as my friend passed by, he opened his bottle of St. Ides, and I was watching from across the street. I was blown away as my friend explained this little episode to me. I consider myself very lucky and very unlucky at the same time to live in this place called "the Mission," because I see oppression that is making my neighborhood a concentration camp; and in 1995, there will be no need to go very far to lock up my carnales in the pinta because they're building prisons everywhere. Our Latino community is blinded by ignorance of what is happening to us. It is becoming a jail and we are incarcerated in it.

Now that some of us are finally becoming politically aware, the oppressor is running all the vatos to the pinta and building more to depopulate our community. After the Mission high and the City walk-outs organized by community activists, the school system kicked the leaders of those

schools out so the movement would die -- and they got away with it. Education is key to opening our eyes to the violence. I'm trying to let everyone know what's going on: There are too many liquor stores and too many gang members hangin' out in front of them or around the block from one so they can get beer. If I was a powerful general and had all the time in the world to kill my enemy, I'd do it with poison that doesn't seem like poison, because it makes you feel good for a while, but destroys your mind. Then I would give you as little education as possible about yourself so you can be lost and not know who or what kind of person you are. Then I would brainwash you to trust me and believe me because I am so very good. Then I would put guns in abandoned cars and vans and leave them open so you can easily get ahold of them and once you've done that ... instigators would show up telling you a Norteno did this and a Sureno did that, and since you've got a gun ... the rest is easy. They put you vatos up to fighting and they give you a place to do it in and kill yourselves; and then when you do, they've already taken your taxes to build you a new jail; so in a way, with the drugs, guns, taxes, and instigating you vatos to fight, they are investing in your future.

Roberto Eligio Alfaro

Gang members, this is column. This is your voice. Send your words, pems, rap songs and art to: Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor for GangSpeak, c/o El Tecolote, P.O. Box 40037, S.F., 94140, or call Deanne's pager 227-6338.



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by andy solow



FERAL FELINE FECES FUROR

I have finally run into something tougher than petty bureaucrats and drunken, drug-dealing, thieving thugs.

During the last few months, stray house cats have adopted my back yard as their official litter box; forcing me to collect and dispose of roughly a dozen cat poops daily. The yard, lawn, deck and stairs have turned from a field of dreams into a field of poop.

Short of poisoning the cats, which is a misdemeanor violation of California Penal Code (PC) section 596, or killing the cats, which is a felony violation of PC 597(a), I have tried a variety of remedies, all of which have failed to dissuade the cats from doing their "duty." Fence repairs and improvements, \$15 worth of SCRAM (a cat repellent made by Chevron Corp.), variations in automatic sprinkler timing, and ambushing the cats with garden hoses and squirt guns only served to increase the frequency with which my property was being soiled. Spraying the yard with full-strength ammonia seems to keep the cats away, but it has a similar effect on humans as well.

According to Carl Friedman, Director of the S.F. Dept. of Animal Care & Control (SFACC): "In 15 years I've never seen as many feral cats as we have today. Backyard feeding without proper care does not benefit the cats. Of the 8,263 cats we took in in fiscal 1993-94, only 236 were redeemed and 1,861 adopted."

According to Captain Michael Knapp, SFACC Field Services Supervisor, a humane cat trap is the only effective solution to the stray cat problem. Knapp recommended "Tomahawk" brand traps over "Have A Heart" brand, as did all three of the animal trappers I contacted. According to Knapp, S.F. Health Code Section 4112 says that it is legal to allow house cats to roam free; but on the other hand, property owners are allowed to secure and protect private property.

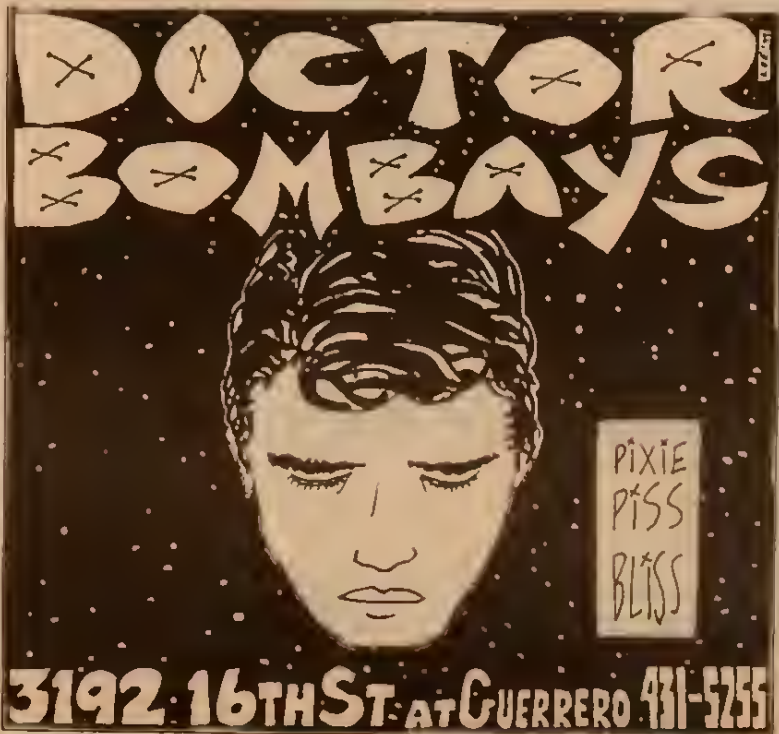
According to Richard Avanzino,

President of the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF/SPCA): "Pet owners have an obligation to prevent annoyance. Live traps are legal, but it's better to try to deter the cats with methods including loops of loose chicken wire along the tops of fences, chicken manure in planting beds, and sticky stuff (double-faced tape?) on fence tops, rather than resorting to trapping the cats." (According to at least one Mission property owner, chicken manure attracts cats and cat poop.) Avanzino continued: "Nobody has a right to trespass, including cats. Property owners have the right to humanely trap any animal trespassing on private property."

According to Section 37 of Article 1 of the San Francisco Health Code, "Keeping and Feeding of Small Animals, Poultry and Game Birds," you can't keep more than four cats on your property within the City limits; and any animal that you feed is yours. Further, Section 94 of Article 2 of the Health Code, "Nuisance," prohibits accumulation of any material that constitutes a threat to public health and safety, including animal excrement. Health Code violations can be reported to the Bureau of Environmental Health Services at 255-3610.

Fees for redeeming lost pets are going up. In 1995, it will cost you \$15 for the first offense, \$30 for the second and \$45 thereafter plus \$15 minimum storage charge to get your pet out of "jail." If talking to your neighbors doesn't solve the problem, call Tomahawk Live Trap Company at 800-272-8727, or send your order to P.O. Box 323, Tomahawk, Wisconsin 54487. Try model #106 cat trap at \$41.67, or, for raccoons and skunks, try model #108 at \$61.73 plus shipping.

Take all trapped animals to the Department of Animal Care and Control at 1200 15th Street (at Harrison) between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or call 554-6364 for further information.



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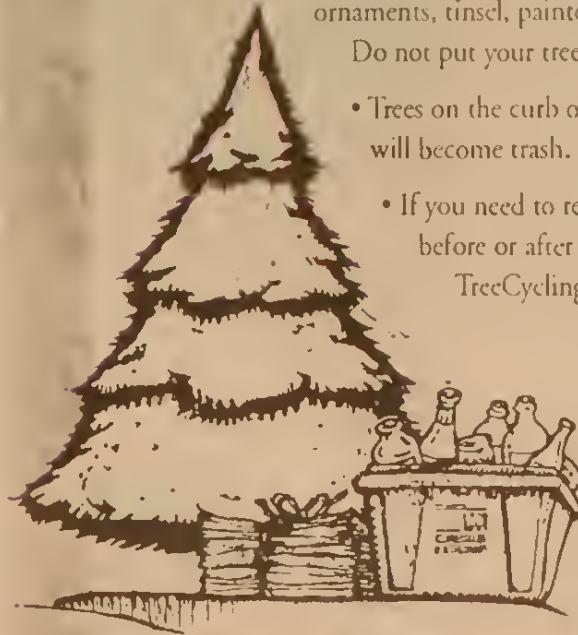
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A PLACE FOR REALLY SPECIAL BEINGS

by Bob Parks

Thanks to community effort and vision, classes began this fall at the Mission Neighborhood Waldorf Kindergarten. Neighbors worked to open the school at Centro del Pueblo (near Valencia and 16th), and for two months now it has served children and parents from the area, including parents who work in the building. The kindergarten offers a curriculum in the innovative Waldorf teaching method, started in Europe a century ago.

Waldorf schools believe that children under seven see things as a unity of which they are a part. The days of the week, for instance, run in a cycle like the seasons. Monday at the kindergarten is when children bake bread, and Thursday is when they listen to nature stories. I showed up on a Friday, after the children had performed a puppet show about an Indian girl who went to live in the sky as the Big Dipper. Had I arrived on soup day, Wednesday, I could have tasted the results of that day's work.

A crew of volunteer electricians, plumbers and other workers started construction of the Waldorf school at Centro del Pueblo in February 1994 and completed it in only six months. The volunteers chopped down a concrete wall dividing the schoolroom and put windows through the outside walls. "I would bring

parents into this huge shell and have to convince them that it could be a kindergarten," said Barbara Hammer, the school's director and head teacher.

Now the "huge shell" is light and airy, freshly painted in pastel colors and

and a terra cotta sandbox that the kindergarten shares with a preschool next door. "Now, it's really Centro del Pueblo, center of the town," says Hammer.

"People donated time and money to make something of beauty. You can see



Photo by Jorge Zepeda

equipped with plumbing, electricity, a kitchen and a bathroom fitted with hand-made pastel tiles. A row of wooden French doors has replaced the thick concrete wall, and outside there's a garden

the effort in everything, and I think the children understand this." Walking around the room, she is proud and slightly touched to tell visitors where each fixture or piece of furniture came from. Many individuals, agencies and businesses donated materials to the school.

Although the Waldorf Kindergarten is a private school, Hammer wanted it built in a working-class neighborhood and made accessible to everyone. "Waldorf schools have been generally elitist because of the cost of tuition," Hammer explains, "but in this one, the tuition is on a sliding scale." So far, her goal is being realized; the school children come from a variety of economic backgrounds. She adds hopefully: "We're doing this from the idea that if people pay what they can afford, we can keep going."

"As a Waldorf school, we believe that when children come to earth, they are really special beings. When they are under seven, they see things differently. Children need to be taught differently at that age," says Hammer, who holds a master's degree in education and has taught in public schools.

One difference from mainstream schools is that children don't work with paper and pencil. Instead, Hammer says, children sing and memorize verses to stretch their memories. They listen to stories while they work with beeswax to prepare their hands for writing.

Another difference at Waldorf is that children are encouraged to move around the room. The space is open and uncluttered, but areas have been arranged to stimulate a child's imagination; for example, there are several small houses made from wood and cloth, and a fresh-cut eucalyptus bough is in the center of the room. The school has only natural materials for its toys and fixtures. "We encourage them to live in harmony with their environment, so we try and have things with a natural integrity."

In a child's imagination, some rough wooden crates could serve as trucks, boats, spaceships or caves. "Play is really their work at this age. Now is the time when you're supposed to play at being Peter Rabbit and hide from Mr. McGregor," says Hammer.

What surprised Hammer was that not only moms and dads but people without children got involved in building the school. She especially wants to thank the contributors, including the Stat Station, the Roxie, Golden Gate Glass, Kohler Toilets, J.S. Guerin and Beronio Lumber. Still, there's a wish list on the wall in her office, and the kitchen needs a stove. She encourages anyone willing to make donations or sponsor a child to call the school at 703-0459.

Meanwhile, the school still has openings for the fall session and is planning to begin an afternoon session in January.

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THE P.C. REVOLUTION

by Victor Miller

Back in 1982 when the Picaro first opened its doors the coffee house scene had yet to define itself. The caffeine-driven culturatti must have been previously meeting somewhere, perhaps in somebody's garage or an abandoned factory, for the Picaro seemed to immediately fill up with an army of brooding poets, plotting politicians, youth mispending the same and all variety of benign rogue. There was also the art set: the art-poseurs, the art-hozos, the art-hustlers and even a few hapless, hyphenless artists to prey upon. Within a few months it seemed like they'd been there forever; playing lightning chess or curled up comfortably with one of the Picaro's library of broken-spine volumes, nursing a third cup of joe while waiting for the John Waters retrospective to begin across the street at the Roxie. It was an overnight institution - in every sense of the word.

As the Picaro became an established part of the routines of we who in one form or another scribble for a living, its peculiar noisiness and rambunctiousness, clutter and chaos became part of its charm. The truly initiated were granted the wisdom to decipher the hellowing, obscurely accented (Etruscan, Sumerian, Visigothic) announcements which, broken by the cacophonous din of stainless steel and ceramic anarchy issuing from the kitchen, heralded the arrival of somebody's lunch. To real devotees, "Itch (BANG, BANG, BANG) or (CRASH, KERBANG) brick (CLAAAAANG) red (SMASH) ARD!", simply meant "Richard, your breakfast is ready. Richard!" Had things gone on like this for just a few more years, the Picaro, just like Boonville, would have developed its own language. But all things must pass.

The Picaro formula, like the IBM computer, gave rise to clones into which your poet, artist, smartaleck and non-descript underemployed lounge, the basic Picaro culture components, fit

equally well. It wasn't an economic problem; the Picaro still had that venerable avuncular panache that came from being first on the scene and continued to attract a steady following of Latte-lapping minions. Nonetheless, the Picaro had lost its uniqueness and, before long, owners Carlos and Matilde were dividing their time between 16th St. and their new tapa venture, Esperpento on 22nd Street. Esper-



Picaro staff Laura Sanchez and Manuel Thomas. Photo by Eugene Kettner

pento took off like the proverbial rocket and the Picaro flickered on and off, finally closing last year.

What had once been everybody's favorite meeting spot was now just a dark patch of street occupied by Village of the Damned sidewalk sales and inhabited acoustically by the dread triune mantra of "Chiva, chiva, chiva." It was double-espresso *Gottterdammerung* on 16th St. To all inquiries regarding the Picaro's future, Carlos would only respond with the terse Schwarzeneggerian response: "We'll be back."

And back they are -- in an evolved and more polished form, but with plenty of the old allure. Just as the Picaro was a trend and ambiance setter for the 80's, the new

Picaro looks to be a style statement for the 90's. The ever mutating madness of the old coffee house has been replaced by a more permanent, mellower look with gold, red and blue colors that, I am told, represent the hues of the sand, arena wall and sky one would see at a Spanish bullfight. The over all effect, may not bring up images of a bullfight in most people's minds but the it does convey the

sunniness of a Barcelona afternoon. The lighting, a special project of Carlos, helps maintain this illusion in the evening hours. The Picaro now boasts the only authentic Spanish stand up tapas bar in the city. While other proprietors may take umbrage at that claim, it undoubtedly is the only tapas standup bar decorated with a continuous strip of Miro paintings, the work of local artists Victor Manuel and Anna Marz. Victor Manuel is also responsible for the trippy Salvador Dali melted watch wall hanging. Bull fight posters, spanish shawls and other items Iberian complete the Picaro's new incarnation.

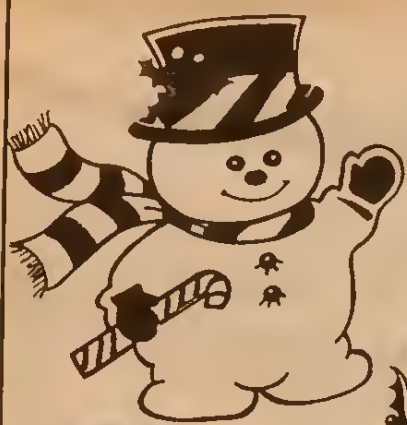
The coffee house element is now definitely concentrated up front with

fewer tables but more room and better coffee (refills are free!). What the owners hope will catch on as a focal spot for social interactions is the tapas bar. In Spain there can be as many as five such bars on one block, people get together, snack, and move leisurely on to the next noshing spot. This is definitely an improvement over the American custom of an evening on the town with Jack Daniels, rounded off with vehicular homicide.

The Picaro menu includes all the fine Spanish dishes that have made Esperpento such a hit including Paella, which requires a 35 minute wait. The Picaro also serves a very savory grilled quail, one entire bird for only \$3.50. The Picaro breakfast has survived into the new era at about the same price and, after many a false start, the home fries are now done just right. Several people have also recommended the special French toast which I have yet to try. Bocadillas, or little sandwiches with a special sauce for each filling, are a social snack best consumed with one of the Picaro's many Spanish wines during the course of an extended conversation. The Picaro will be adding on to its menu in the coming months; for those unfamiliar with Spanish cuisine the selection is currently broad enough to give your taste buds a very comprehensive education.

Besides the good food, there is a certain satisfaction in having the Picaro continue on as a local landmark under the same owners and not auctioned off to the highest bidder. Matilde said at one point a contract of sale was ready to be signed but, "We just couldn't do it. Even if we wanted to we couldn't abandon the Mission, we are a part of it." The rough edges are gone the zaniness is muted but somehow it's still the Picaro.

The Picaro Cafe/Restaurant is located at 3120 16th St and open from 11 a.m. to "whenever we don't feel there are enough people coming in to make it worthwhile staying open, usually about 10 p.m." Call 431-4089.



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CHIROPRACTIC NOTEBOOK

By: Dr. Ross Williams

WAR AND PEACE CHIROPRACTIC AND MEDICINE

"I was taught in medical school never to 'consort' with chiropractors, but later was allowed to associate with them. Last year, as a result of the pressure of a lawsuit by the chiropractors, the American Medical Association allowed its doctors to consult with chiropractors. I predict at this rate, within a few years, M.D.s will be permitted to marry chiropractors."

Robert Mendelsohn, M.D., author of *Confessions of a Medical Heretic*.

D.D. Palmer, who discovered chiropractic, and other early chiropractors were imprisoned and harassed by the authorities for practicing a nonmedical healing art without the blessings of the medical establishment. Palmer was in very good company. Medicine's track record on openly evaluating new developments has not been one to brag about.

One example is William Harvey, the English physician. He advanced the (then) revolutionary idea that blood flows from the heart to arteries and through capillaries, to the veins and then back to the heart. This was disagreeing with accepted medical dogma. He was subjected to intense medical condemnation. Opposition to Harvey became so strong that one day his laboratory was ransacked and his specimens and writings were destroyed.

Louis Pasteur is the person who invented the "pasteurization" of foods and the modern germ theory. He literally saved millions of lives. Pasteur's theories were considered absurd by his contemporaries; by disagreeing with accepted opinion, he was scorned and ridiculed by the medical societies, one reason being

that he was not a medical doctor.

A tragic tale is that of Dr. Victor Semmelweis. He was in charge of the obstetrical wing of a large hospital. Hospitals were then plagued by a disease called childbed fever, which killed thousands of mothers and newborns. Semmelweis claimed that this disease was caused by physicians who, after they had performed autopsies, would, without washing their hands, do pelvic examinations on women in labor.

Semmelweis' claim shocked his fellow M.D.s, who were outraged to be accused of causing disease. They attacked him bitterly. Still, as department head of the hospital, he demanded that his colleagues wash their hands before examining their patients. As a result, childbed fever nearly disappeared. After that, Semmelweis became a marked man. His contract at the hospital was not renewed and he was blacklisted, ostracized and hounded the rest of his life. He eventually died in a mental hospital, broken. Today he is hailed as a genius.

An editorial in the *Canadian Medical Journal* (Vol.85, p. 1056) said this: "In medicine we have the dubious privilege of being often wrong. Our greatest sages have made blunders which seem, in retrospect, astonishing. Virchow, for instance, the father of pathology, would not be persuaded that deficiency diseases might exist, and this in spite of James Lind's demonstration that scurvy is prevented and cured by lemon juice more than a century before. Claude Bernard did not grasp the immense importance of bacteriology. Lister's contemporaries, very able men, were sure that he was either a fraud or a fool, or both. Fleming was considered an amiable crank for years."

Next month: the American Medical Association's attempt to destroy the chiropractic profession.

AWARD WINNER



Mission resident Mary Harden has received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Mission Branch of the YMCA of San Francisco. Mary, a fifth grade teacher at Fairmount Elementary School, has been an active member of the Mission YMCA Board for six years and has served

as Chair of the Board of Managers for the past two years.

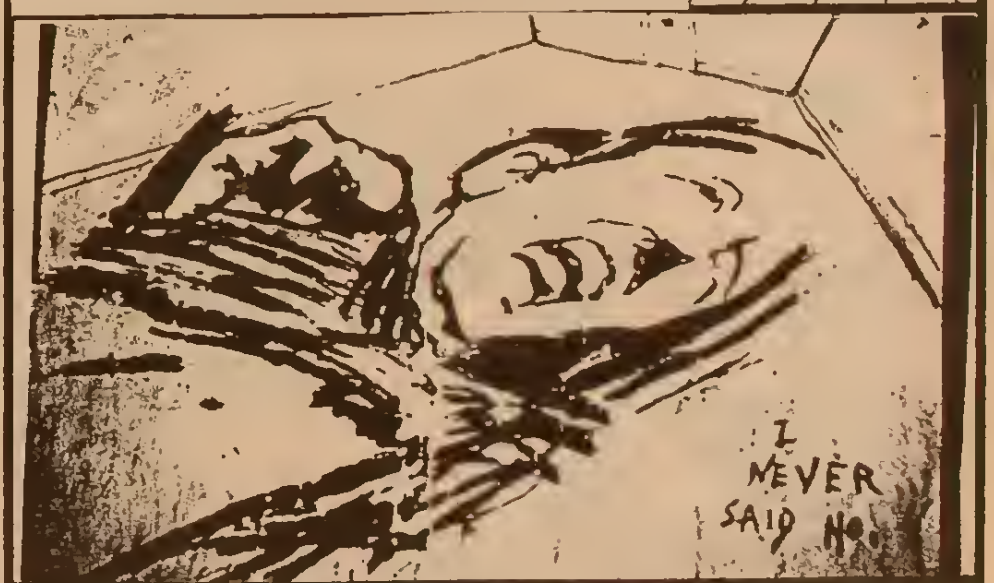
Mary has also been active in Mission community affairs for the last 20 years and is the mother of a high school senior, a talented artist.

Congratulations, Mary!

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by daphne
schoiński

depression



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DECLARING A NO NEWT ZONE

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

It's being said again that the reason "they" got into office is voter apathy. Hell, they've been out there, in office, all along. There is no such thing as voter apathy. This is democracy in action; and no matter how many people vote, the results would not change. Government is rarely representative. I have yet to find a candidate who represents everything I believe in. Now is no exception.

Oh, I know a lot of people are saying that the results of the national elections are depressing, scary. Well, stop now. First off, it isn't that bad. There's actually reason for hope. This is the last terrible gasp of a dying patriarchy. It is gonna be ugly, no question. I mean the Newt, the Republicans, the evangelical right and the dupe dopes like Clinton are going to make a real mess of things. It's bad -- and there's actually reason for hope. There is a benefit to the election results, because now the monster is unmasked. There can be no illusions about what's being done by whom to whom. When the monster is unmasked, it's ugly, and it's clear what we're looking at. In dangerous situations, people come together.

Before this we had Reagan, the benign daddy; and Bush, the benign patrician; and now Clinton, the benign doofus. It was hard to fight holograms and illusions, benign banalities. Wall Street had learned from the reign of Nixon. There was an ugly dude. In the days of Nixon, gathering support for protests was easy because it was

so clear how evil he was and the system is. So how come they've gone back to ugly? Because for years now, they've been numbing us with a barrage of information about the badness of government, the immorality of government representatives. This has dulled the sharpness of our rage and shock. We have simply replied, "Oh well, that's the way they are." How can we work up a lather against Clinton, who simply isn't a deep thinker; he's goofy (still dangerous though). He doesn't have the appearance of evil. Ah, but Newt Gingrich, now; he's gonna bring down the House. They think we're apathetic; no, just waiting for the right moment, which is here now.

Proposition 187 is an evil law that passed overwhelmingly, although no one is copping to voting for it. 187 reveals the hidden agenda of this society. For those members of ethnic groups who voted for the Proposition, learn this: Assimilation is genocide. And if you don't lay down and die in this way, accepting minimum wage jobs and lots of abuse, your group is gonna be next. That's how it works. There are signs of the people waking up. The "No on Prop 187" folks already had their lawsuits prepared for filing the very next day after the elections. This proposition is inspiring many social agencies and institutions to disobey the law with or without a court stay. Sue, disobey, boycott, demonstrate. Yell as loud as you can; and all of us come together into one voice, NO.

So what about the likes of Newt? Forget assassination. It would only make the guy a hero, and that's a disgusting thought.



Take him to court, too. Hurt him financially. Boycott Georgia until they smarten up and throw out the dude. If this is one nation indivisible, let's act like it. It worked in Colorado to overturn their law against lesbians and gays. It may work to bury the fascists once and for all.

What of our neighborhood? Well there's hope here, too, because of groups like Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) that aren't waiting around for government to do the work we need done. If we engage our imaginations, there may be even more hope. Imagine peaceful alliances among the Mission gangs, between the gangs and neighborhood watch groups. Imagine no need for

police at all, because we are taking care of, respecting each other. Imagine residents of the projects getting together as a group to bring education, improvement, comfort into each other's daily lives. Imagine a neighborhood in which we really know each other.

There's no reason to despair. To quote the Canuks of Cirque du Soleil: "If you have no voice, scream; if you have no legs, run; if you have no hope, invent." Imagine all the possibilities there are, believe that they are possible if we open our hearts. Know that they are possible if we aspire to our visions, to be ourselves, loving. Newt wins only if we doubt.



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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

An Illegal Gathering - An evening of poetry, music and performance with Ananda Esteve, Nellie Wong and other poets, The Tale Spinners Theater and dancing with Cruizin' Coyotes. Cafe Arts Month closing reception. C.A.R.E. Center 25 14th St., 7 pm. 703-0264

Grapes and Jones - Poetry reading by Jack Grapes, author of Coffee, Trees and the Eyes of Deer and Richard Jones, author of At Last We Enter Paradise. Small Press Traffic 3599 24th St., 8 pm, \$4. 285-8394

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Wasted Surfers - Local "auteur" Mark Redpath introduces his feature film "Acid Beach" about teen hitchhikers who are looking for that perfect wave but get toxed out instead. Music by Droogs, Caterwaul and Lawndale and the Halibuts. What no Ventures, no Beach Boys !? ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30, \$5. 824-3890

Home For The Holidays - Functional yet affordable art objects on display in a lavish Victorian mansion. 390 Page St., 11 am - 6 pm, free. 255-9842 Also plays on December 3rd

Mongrel Chicanos and Filipinos Read - Poets Luis Alfaro, joel b. tan and Michele Serros shake, rattle and occasionally rhyme. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7 pm, free.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Shindig for Shango - Gay and bisexual latino\a writers read their work in honor of Shango God/dess of Thunder. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 6 pm, free.

Live Jazz - The Ben Goldberg Sextet plays Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 8:30 pm. 826-1199

Open Michele Night - Writers, singers, poets and performers are all welcome. Call 821-4675 or show up at 6:45 to sign up. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 7 pm, \$3-10.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Torture Behind Bars - Since everyone's going to jail for something soon, you may wish to check out this presentation by the Pelican Bay Info Project on your future in California. 8:15 PM at Epicenter Zone, 475 Valencia, 431-2725.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Bloodstock II - River Phoenix and Gov. Pete Wilson MC the Altamont Silver Reunion (1969-1994) featuring Johnny Ace, the Allman-Oakley Band (with Scooter Herring), the Beatles (with Mark Chapman), Tommy Boyce, Sam Cooke, the Bobby Fuller Four, Marvin Gaye (with Tammi Terrell), Janis Joplin, Lynrd Skynrd, Mothers of Invention, Nirvana, Ten (Karen Carpenter and Mama Cass), Dino Valenti and a crypt-kicking jam with Graham Bond, Jimi Hendrix, Keith Moon, T. Rex and Sid Vicious backing Elvis, his daughter and son-in-law. Ab n' Jerry debate jaywalking as revolutionary suicide; Jeffrey Dahmer serves up succulent slices of Dan Quayle's bloodclot and Dave Crosby's liver. Noon till 7, at the Speedway, east of Oakland.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Catastrophic Cadences - Marilyn

Hacker reads from her 7th book of poetry Winter Numbers that deals with crisis themes such as AIDS, the Holocaust and breast cancer. Old Wives Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$3-10. 821-4675

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Sixteenth Street Revitalization Association - General meeting, open to all local businesses and area residents, 8:30 AM. 558-8133

Chile Is Cookin' - Rodrigo Gonzalez and other members of Global Exchange examine Chile's economic advances and their social and environmental cost. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

Is Your Child a Gangsta? - Learn how to identify the symbols and signs and what organizations exist to help in a 7 PM presentation at Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd at Valencia.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Make Your Own Xmas Cards - The joy of potato printing for kids. Mission Library 3359 @4th St., 3:30 pm, free. 695-5090

Bending Paradigms and A Nickel - A collection of videos that bend cultural, individual and scientific paradigms. I'm not sure how the nickel fits in here but there are four nickels in a paradigms. ATA 992 Valencia St. 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

The Grateful Undead - The chamber group Alternative Currents presents a "No Dead Composers" concert featuring the premiere of "Starry Dynamo" by William (Live Guy) Sussman, a premiere solo clarinet piece by Chen (Palpable Pulse) Yi and more from the land of the breathing. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 7:30 pm, \$3-8. 647-6015

Creativity Explored's Affordable Art Sale - Unique one-of-a-kind hand crafted items of every variety by the renowned visual arts center for disabled adults. 3245 16th St. (between Dolores and Guerrero), 6-9 pm. 863-2108

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Giving Lip - Release party for "Lip" a CD featuring 27 pieces of verbal art by women poets and performers such as, Exene Cervenka, Kate Bornstein and Genny Lim. Live performance by Blood-test, Liz Belie, Jewlia Eisenberg and others. Cross dressed Santa and martini-fu. Southern Exposure Gallery 401 Alabama, 7 pm, free. 824-8844

Santa Paws - Get your pet's picture taken with Santa. A fund raiser for the SF\SPCA. No gorillas, please. SF\SPCA 2500 16th St., 10 am-4 pm, \$10 per photo. Also on December 11, same time. 554-3000

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Soul Kitchen - Interactional spiritual get together with Harriet Mohr author of What The Soul Teaches. Bring journal writing materials. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 7 pm, \$3-10. 821-4675

Live Jazz - The Glenn Spearman Clarinet Quartet plays Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St. 8:30 pm. 826-1199

Is Your Mooney In Pluto? - Improved rock music by the band Pluto and the man Malcolm Mooney. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$6. 641-0235

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

A Christmas Memory - Robert Cofman reads Truman Capote's holiday classic at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 Sixteenth at Mission. 8 PM, \$8, 861-5079.

Skin Deep - Women writing on color, culture and identity at Modern Times; editor Elena Featherston, contributors Ginny Lim, Daphne Muse and more. 7:30 PM, 888 Valencia, Free.

Sing Along with Jose Luis Orozco - a presentation of the Mission Library's Programs for Children 9:45 and 10:30 AM, 3359 24th, 695-5090.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Two Worlds Walking - reading by writers with mixed heritages including Susan Ito, Victoria Lena Manyarrows, Julia Park Rodrigues and Thelma Seto at Modern Times. 7:30 PM, 888 Valencia, Free.

Drawing In and Out of Bounds - panel discussion with muralist Juana Alicia, Rich Gold, a research resident at Xerox Parc and cartoonist Keith Knight at Project Artaud's Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama at 17th. 7 PM, \$3-5, 863-2141.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Tunneling Through the Internet with Gopher, Veronica and Jughead - a tour through the University of Minnesota's gopher program, including the jughead and veronica search tools. Modern Times, 888 Valencia 7:30 PM, \$3-5.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Piano Students in Concert - at Community Music Center, 544 Capp. Davide Verotta, John Smalley and Michael Smith with flutist Kara Koffron, 8 PM, 647-6015, Free!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

The Aging Eye - an optical seminar by Dr. Andrew Calman at St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Army. 10:30 AM, Free, 821-DQCS.

Church of John Coltrane - gospel jazz with Roberto de Havens at New College Theatre, 777 Valencia. 7 PM, 863-3171.

Children's Holiday Party - Santa Claus, treats and the opera Amahl and the Night Visitors featuring Zachary Fmedley in the title role and the Ina Chalis Ensemble at Community Music Center. 544 Capp off 20th Street, 11:30 AM, Free, 647-6015.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Bahkas - jazz at Radio Valencia, 8:30 PM. 1199 Valencia, 826-1199.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Cultivating Crisis - Douglas L. Murray on the human cost of pesticides in Latin America at Modern Times. 7:30 PM, 888 Valencia, Free!

Carnival of the Spirit - a multicultural seasonal celebration and winter solstice ritual with Luisah Teish at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Open Gay and Lesbian Reading - for authors of poetry and prose at Modern Times. 7:30 PM, 888 Valencia, Free!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

16th Street Revitalization Meeting - residents and merchants can gather at Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia. 8:30 AM, 558-8133.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Sugarplum Fables - stream down the chimney at Luna Sea, with Red Dora's, Bewegung and Build joining for an evening of fine dining and subversive queer performance. 2940 Sixteenth at Capp, 7:30 PM, advance tickets go on sale December 1, call 863-2989.

Fiesta Navidena - free celebration (bring potluck goodies) at Pena del Sur, 2870A 22nd. 10 PM, 550-1101.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Annual New Years' Concerts - Beethoven's "Ninth" performed by the Community Music Center Orchestra at First Congregational Church, 495 Post at Mason, 10 PM. Free, also Sunday at 4 PM, \$10 donation requested to benefit the CMC Orchestra Fund, 647-6015.

Zap Dancin' - celebrate the first anniversary of the uprising of the Zapatista Liberation Army in Chiapas (see page 8) with a New Years' Eve of revolutionary revels at Pena del Sur, 2870A 22nd. 10 PM, \$5, 550-1101.

ONGOING

Jazz Jam Sessions with Vince Wallace Quartet every Sunday night at Schooner's Tavern, 26th & Valencia, 7:30 PM.

A Karen Carpenter Christmas at the Marsh Dec. 20-30th except on Christmas Day (that one wasted away, see?) starring Katie Guthorn and the music of J. Raoul Brody. 1062 Valencia, call 641-0235 for info/reservations.

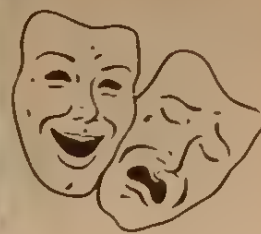
Noh Christmas Carol by Theatre of Yugen at 2840 Mariposa December 7th to 23rd, info & reservations 621-7978.

The American Play, following the tribulations of a black gravedigger with an uncanny resemblance to Abraham Lincoln at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, December 3rd-18th, 621-7797.

Loot!, Joe Orton's manic mystery rendered by J2M Productions at the Victoria Theatre through December 17th. Tickets through BASS or at the door, 2961 16th at Capp, 863-7576.

Christmas Consumption Tips: 1) San Francisco's favorite folk art sale Bazaar Navideno through 24th at Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th, 826-8009; 2) Celebration of Craftswomen at Fort Mason, Dec. 3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th, a presentation of the Women's Building, 431-1180.

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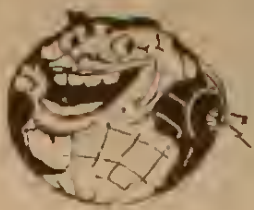
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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

TALKING ABOUT LA MUSICA

Piri Thomas, acclaimed poet and author, was born in Harlem in 1928 to Puerto Rican and Cuban parents; now living in Berkeley, Piri has an intriguing CD release out entitled Sounds of the Street. Produced locally by Greg Landau, who assembled some all-star Latin musicians from Mario Bauza's band when they were in town last, this release combines "word-songs" by Piri with Afro-Latin jazz. The featured musicians include master conga player Patato Valdez, percussionist extraordinaire Orestes Vilato, Enrique Fernandez on flute and sax, Jose Santiago on bass and many other guest musicians.

The musicians improvised, laying down the groove for Piri's soulful readings of his "word-songs"; largely Cuban and Nueyoricán, there are tastes of rhythm 'n'blues, gospel and soul. The diverse soundscape complements the poetry, and there are some instrumental parts where the musicians jam and coro vocals propel the songs. This unique collaboration should satisfy those interested in both the literary and musical aspects. "Caro de Palo Thoughts" starts it off on Cuban terra firma; "Sounds of a Street Kid" brings in the funky; and "Talking About La Musica," a poem written by Avotcja, evokes the Nueyoricán musical landscape as the rhythm section fires away full force. Oye.

One of West Africa's most talented musicians, Baaba Maal of Senegal, has a superb new release called Firin' in Fouta out on Mango records. Baaba is one of the few contemporary African musicians

to do both modern popular and traditional music. His latest is perhaps the most sophisticated he has done. Combining elements of Afro-pop, traditional, salsa, rap, jazz and funk, this tour-de-force was recorded both in Senegal and at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios. The guest artists are too numerous to mention but include a seven-piece horn section and upright acoustic bass. "African Woman" is a smokin' salsified dance tune that should be on the play list of every dance club in the world. "Mbaye," with a truly hip rap in Wolof, puts most of the jazz/funk/rap fusion I've heard to shame.

Every tune here is distinctly different, especially "Tiedo," which starts off with acoustic bass and kora and then brings in a jazz sax and crescendo of chorus vocals and keyboards. Stunning! Baaba Maal also sings about serious issues, be they civil strife in Casamance, the market economy and the West African currency, or historical tales. The CD booklet provides textual commentary in English and French.

Ten CDs for the Holiday Shopper:

1. Africando, vols. 1 & 2 -- The sensational salsa recordings that feature top-notch Latin NYC musicians with three Senegalese singers. Popular with both Latin and African music audiences.
2. Duende -- A three-CD anthology of flamenco music featuring all the greats, old and new, with a comprehensive book containing photos and text.
3. Los Van Van, Lo Ultimo En Vivo



From the most popular band in Cuba in the past 15 years comes a CD capturing the way they sound live playing their smooth irresistible "songo" style with sing-along coros.

4. Guem, Compilations -- A master drummer from Algeria/Niger who plays a variety of West and North African as well as samba rhythms with his group.

5. Descarga Boricua -- The most adventurous Latin release of recent time. A huge collection of top Puerto Rican musicians play Latin jazz, salsa, rumba and more with lots of room for soloing and stretching out. Over two hours and not one bad cut.

6. Gnonnas Pedro, La Compilation Vol. 1 -- This singer from Benin in West Africa plays classic highlife and Cuban music. A quintessential African sound that could have been heard anywhere in West Africa in the '70s.

7. Salif Keita, Mansa of Mali -- The best material from this superb Mandingo singer from Mali. On the cutting edge of

modern African music, this also includes his most famous tune from his days with Les Ambassadeurs.

8. Ska Boogie -- A collection of blue beat material from the pre-reggae days in Jamaica where you can hear the heavy rhythm-'n'-blues and boogie-woogie roots of Jamaican ska.

9. Balla et ses Balladins, Objectif Perfection -- A classic release from this band from Guinea made in the '70s. Call it Manding-swing. Great vocal, guitar and horns with that Latin tinge, but distinctly modern African music.

10. Trance Planet -- Compiled by Tom Schnabel, who has had a "world music" radio program in Santa Monica for years, this is a good, diverse selection of Indian, African, European and Latin music that flows well and covers broad territory.

You can check these and other musica out at Round World Music.

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HOW THE GINGRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

by Frank Stauf

The big tree on the lawn
Of the White House shone bright,
But not on the leader
Of the Radical Right:
The Huge-Headed Gingrinch,
Who by some evil magic
Was about to take Whoville
In a direction most tragic!
As he sat in his office
(Vexed by carolers singing)
He reveled in thoughts
Of what he soon would be bringing
To the people of Whoville
In the form of new laws.
"Now that I'm Speaker,
"I'll show 'em who's boss!
I'll repeal all the programs
Of the bleeding-heart bunch --
No more Head Start!
No more free school lunch!
I'll take away Food Stamps!
Ha ha! A.F.D.C!
I'll punish the cities!
They'll be sorry, you'll see!
They'll be sorry for giving
A liberal slant to the news
-- All those damn West Coast faggots,
All them damn New York Jews!
I'll teach their children to pray
At the ring of a bell
To send the souls of black convicts
From Death Row to Hell!
As for the children of mothers
On public support,
They'll be packed off to orphanages
Constructed like forts!
Illegal immigrants?
Hunted, caught and deported
To make room for the bastards
Who will not be aborted.
Of course, illegitimacy

Is also a sin ...
To restore moral decency
-- Where shall I begin?
How can I save Whoville
From its moral decay?
I know! Give the rich
Lower taxes to pay!"
Very pleased with himself
For devising this plan
He patted himself on the back
And he shook his own hand.
"Reward the successfull
Yeah, that's the ticket.
If a rich man plants cotton
And hires a poor man to pick it,
He's doing a service
For the whole Economy!
What else should he do?
Give it away free?"
The Gingrinch smiled like a Newt
Sitting smug in the dark
Until the logs in his fireplace
Commenced to sputter and spark,
And a pair of black boots
Came crashing down hard
Right there in the fireplace!
"Stop, burglar! En Garde!"
He cried, as from the fireplace rolled
A jolly fat man in red!
Not quite young, not quite old,
But a little of both,
He looked surprised by the Uzi
In the Newt's hands, and quoth:
"What greeting is this?
Come, lay down your toy!
I've toys enough in this bag
For even the greediest boy!"
Amazed when he saw
The fat man wasn't lying,
The Gingrinch stole Christmas
Without hardly trying.
Not like a thief
Did the Newt rob all joy,
But worse, like a cop,
He impounded the toys,
Saying: "Presents? For children?
My God, are you crazy?
Don't you know hand-outs
Only make people lazy?"



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